

AF Climate Survey to launch Oct. 1

Richard Salomon
Air Force Manpower and Innovation Agency Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) - Air Force leaders at all levels want to know, “How is my organization doing?” The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey begins Oct. 1 to answer this question.

Participation in the survey is critical, said senior leaders. “Leadership must be made aware of what's really going on out there,” said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. “By taking a few brief moments to fill out this survey, you can help your leaders understand your concerns and ultimately better serve you and our nation's interests.”

Previous surveys included active-duty airmen and appropriated-fund civilians. This year, the survey also will include the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, non-appropriated fund civilians and students in temporary-duty status.

“We want to make sure all members of the Air Force team have an opportunity to participate,” said Lori Marcum, the survey's team leader. “This survey provides everyone an opportunity to speak out about strengths and areas for improvement in their organization.”

The survey runs through Nov. 23 and can be completed online at <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> anytime during the survey period from either a government computer or personal computer.

Because Air Force leaders expect candid feedback, the survey team has taken extraordinary measures to ensure privacy by using advanced information-masking software.

Results will be released early in 2004, said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff.

The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey will cover:

- Job.
- Resources.
- Core values.
- Leadership.
- Supervision.
- Training and development.
- Teamwork.
- Participation and involvement.
- Recognition.
- Unit flexibility.
- General satisfaction.
- Unit performance outcomes.
- Job enhancement.



Kenn Brown

Gov. Ronnie Musgrove talks with DynCorp mechanics Tim Carter, Jeff Swords, William Walls (foreground) and Glen Burns on the flight line. The governor made a familiarization visit to Columbus AFB Saturday.

Governor sees Air Force first hand

Pam Warnken
Public Affairs

Gov. Ronnie Musgrove made a familiarization visit to Columbus AFB Saturday - his first ever as governor.

After a greeting in the Wing headquarters with CAFB Wingmen and CAFB 2020, two civic groups that support the base, the governor was given a briefing on CAFB's pilot training mission, economic impact and other issues such as housing and military construction.

“The people of Lowndes County and Columbus are to be commended for their efforts on the part of the base,” Governor Musgrove said. “CAFB brings more than \$200 mil-

lion of annual impact to this region.”

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, escorted the governor on a driving tour of the base. The state's chief executive then greeted pilots and CAFB civilian aircraft maintenance workers on the flight line. He climbed up to see the cockpit of a T-38C.

While on the base, Musgrove also paid a visit to the front gate where members of the Miss. Army National Guard are often on sentry duty.

“Columbus AFB is at the heart of homeland security,” he said, after shaking hands with the guardsmen.

Colonel Schmidt said he'd invited the governor to visit last winter when all commanders of Mississippi

military bases visited the governor's mansion for a luncheon.

"We wanted to show the mission of Columbus and the progress we've made in improving the base," said Colonel Schmidt. "We also invited him back to fly in the T-38C when his schedule permits."

Musgrove was keenly focused on the technology used to train one third of the nation's Air Force pilots. He also drove by the new Regenesys plant being constructed outside the south gate of the base. The complex is to operate a giant battery that, once online, is designed to prevent power surges and losses.

The governor visited three hours. He departed aboard the state jet at noon.

HQ environmental team rates CAFB program best in AETC

Airman Boto Best

Public affairs

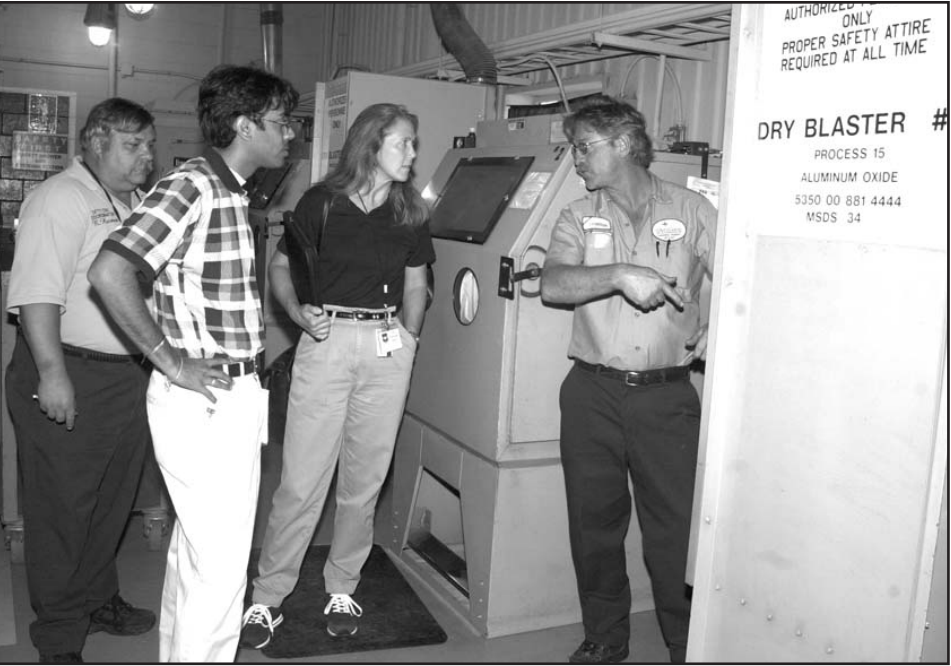
A team of environmental professionals ended a weeklong assessment of Columbus AFB's environmental program in an out-brief at 8 a.m. Sept. 12 at the Wing Headquarters building.

The team of Headquarters Air Education and Training Command personnel, contractors and experts from other bases spent the week checking the base's overall environmental program. They looked at air emissions, natural resources, occupational health, water quality management and safety.

“Our overall assessment is that Columbus AFB's environmental program is very healthy and heading in the right direction,” said Capt. Travis Leighton, Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program team chief. “They have done a superior job of Environmental Management Systems implementation.”

At the briefing, Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Morris Benson, ESOHCAMP team leader, presented coins to seven Columbus AFB ‘positive performers’ for their commitment to teamwork and mission accomplishment.

Recognized were 14th Civil Engineering Squadron civilian employees Mike Blythe, Milton Murphy, Paul Stewart, Carl



Airman Boto Best

Wayne White (far right), DynCorp lead welder, explains safety precautions used during sandblasting to Bob Harmon, DynCorp safety manager; Rajiv Patel, URS Corporation contractor; and Theresa Haan, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command air program assessor. The AETC Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program team ended its inspection of Columbus AFB with accolades Sept. 12.

Lisowski and Pam Bradford; Safety civilian employee William Wright; and Occupational Health Capt. Kendra Gomez.

According to the assessment, Columbus AFB was the only one of 13 bases in the Air Education and Training Command with no high vulnerability findings in

2003. Columbus AFB also had the highest number of positive findings.

David Glass, regional environmental officer, said the base has the best environmental program in the southeast region.

“The team's analysis reflects good working partnerships on and off base,” he said.

New command surgeon explores BLAZE mission

Tech. Sgt. Becky Roady

Public affairs

Air Education and Training Command's top surgeon Monday discussed with key members of the Columbus AFB medical community their unique requirements and special challenges as practitioners in a training environment.

Col. (Dr.) James Dougherty, AETC command surgeon and director of medical services and training since June, also recently visited medical groups at Laughlin and Sheppard AFBs, Texas.

“Medical facilities at these training wings are smaller than those at other bases, so we often have brand new people going into one-deep medical or dental shops with no mentors,” he said. “We need some kind of exchange program with the larger facilities to ensure our new doctors are being trained by experienced doctors.”

Colonel Dougherty said the healthcare-versus-training choice AETC students must make is also problematic for the command. Airmen busy with pilot training, technical training or even basic training tend to ignore minor problems until they become major problems, he said.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Victoria Farley, 14th Medical Operations Squadron preventive medicine flight commander and dental services chief, agreed.

“Training always comes first,” she said. “Students are too busy even to have their cavities filled during school, so they end up getting extractions at their first duty bases.”

Both physicians also cited the Air Force's new policy of deploying support personnel from AETC bases as a hardship.

Colonel Dougherty said, “Medics tell me they struggle to get their three-level troops upgraded, only to lose them to deployment. But the medical community has always trained for both peace and readiness missions, so they recognize the value of the experience and have learned to cope.”

Colonel Dougherty came to AETC from Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Fla. He said the new job is different, but just as important.

“AFSOC was exciting front-line work, but AETC is a big critical first step for pilots, medics, mechanics and everybody else in the Air Force, so we have to get it right,” he said. “I think of this appointment as moving from the tip of the sword to the hilt - and you need both to build an effective weapon.”

As command surgeon, Colonel Dougherty advises the AETC commander on all heath-related matters and is responsible for plans and programs at AETC's 13 medical treatment facilities as well as the 882nd Training Group at

First Lt. Gary Moore, 14th Civil Engineering Squadron integration and analysis officer, led the base effort in preparing for the assessment.

“I thought it was an excellent assessment,” he said. “The base worked hard to prepare for it. The fact that there were seven outstanding performers from three different groups on base proves that success was a basewide effort.”

Mr. Michael Smith, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight Chief, was pleased with the outcome.

“This is the most successful ESO-HCAMP assessment in the history of Columbus AFB,” he said. “The entire BLAZE team is to be commended for a job well done.”

Theresa Haan, Headquarters AETC air program assessor, said the BLAZE team should also be emulated.

“We're not just looking for negative findings, but also positive things we can share with other bases. This was the best coordinated ESOHCAMP I've ever been to.”

Colonel Benson said the base is an excellent steward.

“Columbus has an outstanding basewide environmental program. The team made several recommendations to make a good program even better,” he said.

Colonel Schmidt thanked the ESO-HCAMP team for their hard work and recommendations, and said he looks forward to the September 2004 inspection.

Sheppard AFB. He began his medical career as an emergency room doctor in Houston, and his Air Force career as an individual mobilization augmentee in Wilford Hall at Lackland AFB, Texas, during the 1970s.

“The Air Reserve Personnel Center invited me to attend flight surgeon school, and I loved it,” he said. “So I've been on active duty since 1980.”

Colonel Dougherty's daughter likewise entered the Air Force in roundabout fashion.

“She was a journalism major in college, but got hooked by an aerospace course she took as an elective,” Colonel Dougherty said. “After that she got involved with ROTC, competed for a navigator slot, and ended up at Pensacola in the strike fighter program. She graduated from Randolph with all three academic awards, and will leave Dyess Sept. 26 as a weapons system officer.”

Despite the impressive start, she'll have to work hard to match her father's accomplishments.

During his 23 years in the Air Force, Colonel Dougherty has logged more than 900 flying hours as a chief flight surgeon, made 70 static line deployments as a senior parachutist and jumpmaster, and been certified as a U.S. Navy closed- and open-circuit diving medical officer. He has taught general surgery, neurological surgery and philosophy.

NEWS BRIEFS

POW/MIA retreat ceremony

A POW/MIA retreat ceremony is scheduled for 4 p.m. today at the ceremonial plaza. For more information call 1st Lt. Charlene Talafuse at Ext. 2575.

Silent auction

A silent auction to benefit Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 03-15 is scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m. tonight at the officers club. Items include restaurant gift certificates and movie baskets. For information call Misti Palmer at Ext. 5046.

Autocross racing

Sports Car Club of America sponsors an autocross race 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday on the Strategic Air Command ramp. Technical inspections are scheduled for 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. today and 8 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the visitor center. Registration information is available at www.msscca.org.

Case lot sale

A case lot sale is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the commissary. For information call Willie Taylor at Ext. 7109.

Student spouse briefing

A student spouse aircraft briefing is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday in Phillips Auditorium. For information call Ext. 7158.

TMO closure

The Traffic Management Office will be closed for training every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. For information call Dejuan Webb at Ext. 2684.

BLAZE 6 meeting

The BLAZE 6 monthly meeting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the community activity center. Beginning in October the monthly meeting will be every third Friday at 3:30 p.m. in the CAC. For information call Staff Sgt. Tonya O'Toole at Ext. 2980.

Hunting safety

A mandatory safety briefing for all sportsmen participating in the upcoming Columbus AFB hunting season is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sept. 26 at the Military Personnel Flight building in Room 222. For information, call Ext. 7942.

Year-end picnic

A base-wide picnic is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 30. A live band, carnival games, door prizes, and food are planned.

Commander's call sends stern message

Airman Boto Best
Public affairs

"Drunk drivers are terrorists behind the wheel, time bombs waiting to explode. They're just as bad as people who would drive a plane into a building."

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, made no bones about his feelings in a basewide commander's call Wednesday at the base theatre.

The commander divided his message into three parts: the good, the bad and the ugly.

He began with the bad, which had to do with citations for driving under the influence and violations of base fraternization policies.

"We've had twice as many alcohol-related incidents in the last month as we've had in the last year," he said. "Mississippi law allows installation commanders to give permission to minors to consume alcohol on base in the presence of an adult. Unfortunately, people have taken that to the extreme."

Colonel Schmidt said Gen. Donald Cook, Air Education and Training Command commander, is being personally briefed by Maj. Gen. James Sandstrom, 19th Air Force AETC commander, on every alcohol-related incident involving officers. Group commanders instead of squadron commanders are now handling incidents.

"What I'm worried about is people dying, getting raped or hurt as the case may be - that's besides the career implications."

The blood alcohol limit in Mississippi is .02 percent, and violators spend a minimum of 12 hours in jail, Colonel Schmidt said.

Senior Airman Tyler Armstrong, 14th Operations Support Squadron, called the



2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore

The good

Columbus AFB volunteers, coordinated by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Bachant, lay the foundation for Lula and Fred McCradic's new home on Dowdle Street in Columbus about a year ago. Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, cited the Habitat for Humanity house project as one of the BLAZE team's positive accomplishments during commander's call Wednesday.

rape allegations shocking.

"It's a very big deal," he said. "I find it hard to believe that there are airmen who would stoop low enough to do something like that. It's embarrassing to the Air Force."

Colonel Schmidt said minors are still allowed to drink alcohol on base, but if the problem persists, the privilege will be taken away.

"It's a privilege that's rare in the Air Force," he said.

The ugly news was that 66 people at Columbus AFB are on the weight management program, and 152 have failed the bike test. Colonel Schmidt reminded BLAZE team members that the "Fit to Fight" initiative begins Jan.1, and encouraged people to begin preparing for it now.

Finally, the good news was that the 14th FTW completed 66,630 sorties and 94,007 flying hours.

"Despite the rain, all of our students have graduated on time and we're getting ready to close out the flying year Sept. 26," he said.

In appreciation, BLAZE team members, including active duty, civilians, contractors and dependents, are invited to a picnic 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 30 behind the community activities center.

He also thanked the team for volunteering in the Habitat for Humanity and Day to Care projects. "There are needs in the community that we can meet, and you have stepped up to the challenge," he said.

The commander also encouraged people to contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign. He said airmen have the highest annual income in the city of Columbus and in Lowndes County, and Columbus AFB should seize the opportunity to make Columbus a better place to live.

Col. Mike Holmes
14th Operations
Group



"This is already good enough. Why should we change it?" Have you ever thought it? Have you said it, or heard somebody else in your workplace say it?

In the Air Force, we measure ourselves in comparison to standards. Standards of conduct. Standards of performance. Environmental standards. Inspector general standards. Course training standards. We're all familiar with those terms, and they play an important role in our career development. We have to meet standards to graduate from basic training and technical training. We have to meet

standards to progress in on-the-job and skill level training. The standards tell us when we've "arrived" and are qualified at a new task.

If we're not careful, these standards can also begin to limit our performance. If we stop working when we meet the "minimum" standards, or stop trying to improve because we're "good enough," the "good enough" can become the enemy of the "great."

Nobody ever won a championship by accepting "good enough." Coach Jon Gruden of the world champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers said, "If we're not getting better, we're getting worse." His Bucs are not satisfied with one Super Bowl championship. They want another one, and they recognize that they'll have to get better if they want to beat everybody again.

Lt. Col. Dave Eastman and the 14th

Operations Support Squadron were not satisfied with the "satisfactory" rating they received in our 2003 organization readiness inspection. They set out to achieve "excellent" and "outstanding" performances by "getting just a little bit better everyday," as their squadron motto says. As a result, they have steadily corrected all the areas that the IG rated less than "excellent," and have invited their inspectors back to see how much they've improved.

The 14th Operations Group is proud of the 350 new pilots we produce every year "day or night, rain or shine, peace or war." We know they meet all course training standards and are the best in the world. But we also think we can do our job better.

We've embarked on a process called "instructor development" to help us focus on making our accomplished instructor

pilot force a little better every day. We believe we can improve our performance as instructors and produce better trained students by concentrating on improving our instructor skills over the course of our three-year tours at Columbus. We're not going to accept being "good enough."

There are many other members of the BLAZE team that feel the same way. You can recognize them by the way they strive to exceed the standards and commit themselves to learning more about their jobs and how to do them better. You will often hear them asking questions or making suggestions about new and better ways to get their jobs done. I think you'll also notice that they, like coach Gruden and Colonel Eastman, seem to be enjoying their jobs and the people around them more, too.

What about you? Do you want to be more than "good enough?"

STRAIGHT TALK LINE

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better.

Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names received are kept confidential.

Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724.

The Straight Talk program is also on the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main website at www.columbus.af.mil. Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

Broken sink repaired

Question: I work for DynCorp in the Engine Shop, building number 218. Our sink has been broken for six months and it is very difficult for 60 people to wash their hands in the two small operable sinks remaining. We have submitted a work order to CE and checked up on it multiple times, but CE claims there are no parts to support this repair. This "new" sink has been broken already four times. Is there any chance of speeding up the order of these parts, as this sink has been broken for so long?

Answer: The Civil Engineering squadron researched this sink problem and fortunately was able repair it. It is now operational. However, I have instructed the plumbing supervisor to purchase a new sink if this repair is not permanent. Sorry it took so long to get that sink fixed right. Let me know if there are any more problems with it, and thank you for using Straight Talk, the Commander's Action Hotline.

*Col. Steve Schmidt
14th Flying Training Wing commander*

SILVER WINGS

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LETTERS

Franklin Academy better for students thanks to ALS

On Aug. 23, volunteers from the Airman Leadership School at Columbus AFB spent the morning making Franklin Academy a better place for students to learn and play.

The volunteers cleaned up the playground and spread mulch to make the area safer and more appealing for the children.

It's wonderful for Franklin whenever we get to work with folks from the base, and we are proud to have CAFB as a Partner in Progress. The time the ALS volunteers gave to the school is part of what makes the partnership so special for Franklin.

I want to thank them on behalf of the PTA, the school and all 267 of our students, including those who live on base.

*Leigh Yarborough
Franklin Academy PTA president*

Key phone numbers

Base Exchange..... 434-6013
Chaplain..... 434-2500
Civil Engineer Service Desk..... 434-2856
Civilian Personnel..... 434-2635
Clinic:
Family Practice..... 434-2172
Appointment Desk..... 434-2273
After Hours Care..... 434-2273
Columbus Club..... 434-2489
Commissary..... 434-7106
Finance..... 434-2706
Housing Maintenance..... 434-7370
Inspector General..... 434-2927
Legal Office..... 434-7030
Military Equal Opportunity..... 434-2546
Security Forces..... 434-7129
Shoppette..... 434-6026



2nd Lt. Yoshihito Nakano
Japanese Air Force

Home: Kashiwa City, Japan

International student spotlight

Aircraft: I want to fly an F-4 Phantom but it is phasing out so I will probably fly an F-2.

Likes about Columbus: I think the weather here is similar to my home city. The surroundings remind me of my home country. Very good training situation. A good place to concentrate. It is also close to lots of places: Birmingham, New Orleans,

Memphis. My wife is really enjoying it here. We have been to Atlanta, Birmingham and Pensacola, and to Monterey, Mexico.

Misses about home: I miss the food, especially fish. Lots of steak restaurants here but not much fish. I miss my friends in Japan and hopefully they will come to visit dur-

ing the winter vacation. I wish my grandmother will come here. She is worried about the airplane ride. And hopefully my parents and wife's parents.



Japanese F-4

Chaplain (Capt.) Bryan Hochhalter carries plants for placement around the T-37 static display downtown. He also delivered the invocation at the Day to Care luncheon at the Trotter Convention Center.



Airman First Class Tara Goswick picks up trash at the Boy Scouts' building in downtown Columbus. These volunteers also helped paint the Girl Scouts' building.

1st Lt. Richard Blakewood



2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore



2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore

Sara Holmes plants flowers around the bird bath at Recovery House in downtown Columbus. Recovery House is a substance abuse residential program for women.

Volunteers remember 9/11 through community service

2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore
Public affairs

More than 80 Columbus AFB volunteers spent the morning of Sept. 11 participating in community projects designed to benefit United Way-funded agencies and the city of Columbus.

Workers visited 11 locations across Columbus to tackle tasks such as landscaping, gardening, indoor painting, meal preparation for elderly citizens, and window repair.

One group of volunteers painted bedrooms at the Palmer Home for children in downtown Columbus.

"My family is blessed in so many ways that volunteering is one way I can pass those blessings on to others," said Capt. Chad Hewins, 48th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot. "Volunteering puts things in perspective and reminds us not to take anything for granted. Events like this [Day to Care] separate Americans from the rest of the world."

The most visible project involved the T-37 landscaping crew who teamed up with city employees to plant shrubbery around the new static display downtown.

"It was a great project and there's no place I would rather have been on Sept. 11," said Shirley Rush, 14th Flying Training Wing Logistics Readiness materials handler. "We had an exceptional crew and it felt good knowing that I had a hand in doing something great for the city of Columbus."

Another group of volunteers worked on the base cemetery located near Magnolia Village.

Most people don't even realize the cemetery exists, said Master Sgt. Kevin Hawks, project coordinator.

"We trimmed back the forest and uncovered at least five headstones overgrown with brush," Sergeant Hawks said. "It was a great project for Sept. 11 because our ancestors are buried in similar cemeteries and they're the reason freedom endures today."

The cemetery, home to 47 marked and five unmarked graves, dates back to the 1800s and is actually owned by the county.

Base volunteers also worked with the Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Helping Hands and Dial-A-Bus, United Way support, Recovery House and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

After completing their various projects, volunteers attended a free luncheon at the Trotter Convention Center where guest speakers including Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, Columbus Mayor Jeffrey Rupp, and Joe Higgins, Columbus Lowndes Development Link executive director, addressed the crowd.

Also during the program, United Way committee members thanked the 200 volunteers and 17 agencies that participated in what they designated "the most successful Day to Care event to date."

"We're grateful for the tremendous support we received from Columbus AFB people who wanted to help make a difference in someone's life and support the local community," said Lori Kesler, Lowndes County United Way executive director. "We were truly overwhelmed by the generosity of the volunteers."



2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore

Col. Steve Schmidt uses a post hole digger to create space for shrubbery planted on Day to Care. Columbus Rotary Club donated 200 plants for the T-37 static display.



Airman Boto Best

Tech. Sgt. Tony Clements manicures the grounds at the county cemetery on Columbus AFB. Graves at the cemetery date back to the 1800s.



2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore

Sarah Schmidt and Julie Keck prepare the soil around the T-37 static display downtown. More than 85 BLAZE volunteers worked on Day to Care community, base and city projects arranged through Lowndes County United Way for Sept. 11.

At the Chapel

Catholic
Sunday
9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — Mass
Wednesday
11:30 a.m. — Mass

Protestant
Sunday
9 a.m. — Sunday school
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship
1 p.m. — Contemporary worship
Tuesday
Noon — Lunch and Bible study
Wednesday
5:30 p.m. — Dinner and Bible study

For Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.
All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the theater.

In the Theater

Today
“Bend it Like Beckham” (PG-13, sexual content and language, 112 min.)
Starring: Keira Knightley, Parminder Nagra.

Saturday
“Freaky Friday” (PG, mild thematic elements and some language, 97 min.)
Starring: Jamie Lee Curtis, Lindsay Lohan.

Sept. 26
“Pirates of the Caribbean” (PG-13, action/adventure violence, 143 min.)
Starring: Johnny Depp, Keira Knightley.

On Channel 64

BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.
Call 1st Lt. Richard Blakewood at Ext. 7065 for more information.

Weekdays
9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.
Air Force Television News

Monday through Sept. 26
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.
CLEP Tapes:
Humanities



Airman Boto Best

A little bit of paradise

First Lt. Ryan Simms tends the container garden outside his room at Unaccompanied Officers Quarters. The flowers will be orphaned when Lieutenant Simms graduates Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training with class 03-15.

Family Support

Parenting seminar: Readus Linton will present “How to Deal with an Angry Child” 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday. The seminar targets parents of young children, analyzes common causes for a child’s anger, and presents ways to help the child deal with problems.
To register call Ext. 2631 by Monday.

Bundles of joy: A program for active duty spouses who are pregnant or have a child under six months is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday.
Speakers will discuss finance, nutrition, fitness and infant care. Each participant will also receive an Air Force Aid Society gift package valued at over \$50.
For more information or to register, call Ext. 2631.

Employment expo: The Golden Triangle Employment Expo is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Trotter Convention Center.
For a list of employers attending, visit www.jobfairs.ms.gov.

Computer studies: Self-paced programs for learning Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher,

FrontPage and PhotoDraw are available. Each program has three levels of expertise.
For more information call Ext. 2839.

Remote/deployed briefing: Military people who are going remote or being deployed must attend a mandatory briefing offered at 9 a.m. daily.
For more information call Ext. 2794.

Pre-separation counseling: Counseling is mandatory and may be completed up to one year prior to retirement or separation.
For more information call Ext. 2839.

Upcoming workshops: For information on future self-improvement and informational workshops at family support, visit www.columbus.af.mil/sptg/ and click on the Family Support link or call Ext. 2631.

Base Notes

Boy Scouts: Columbus AFB Troop 52, Columbus Troop 1 and Hamilton Troop 62 are scheduled to teach basic outdoor skills to the Wild Turkey Federation’s Women in the Outdoors division beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Troop 1 Scout Hut in Columbus. Women interested in attending should call Lisa Crow at 343-5851.
Troop 52 is scheduled to attend the

Mississippi State University vs. Louisiana State University football game Sept. 27 at Starkville.

Troop 52 is scheduled to participate in a camporee “emergency” Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 at Indian Ridge.

For more information call Kayline Hamilton at Ext. 2504 or 2nd Lt. Richard Carter at Ext. 2324.

Bible studies: Tuesday lunch study is based on “The Strength of Being Tender” by Phyllis LePeau.
Wednesday dinner studies include “Elevate” for young adults with Chaplain Bryan Hochhalter, “The Victory” for everyone with Chaplain Lonnie Brooks, and “Wild and Wacky” for children with Joy Garrison.
For more information call Ext. 2500.

Toddler play group: The Little Me Play Group meets from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the youth center. Infants and toddlers up to age two are welcome.
For more information call Valerie Manning at Ext. 5370.

Cub Scouts: Pack 52 is registering first through fifth grade boys interested in Cub Scouting, and is recruiting leaders.
For more information call Maj. Bruce Robertson at 241-5024 or Ext. 3569.

Services welcomes fall with games, trips, classes

All ranks bingo: Games begin at 6 p.m. Fridays in the community center ballroom. Play five \$75 regular games, one \$125 odd and even coverall game and a \$1,000 progressive jackpot game. Consolation prize is \$150 if the jackpot does not go. Admission fees for nonmembers are \$5. Payout is based on a minimum number of players.
For more information call Ext. 2489.

Variety night: Disc jockey Kleve provides the music from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. tonight at the enlisted lounge.

Youth center dance: The youth center offers a dance for preteens and teens from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday.
Cost is \$2 for teen members and \$1 for preteen members. Preteens must leave by 9:30 p.m.
Nonmember fees are \$4 for teens and \$3 for preteens.
For more information call Ext. 2504.

Football frenzy: Enter to win in the club’s football frenzy program. The enlisted lounge is open Mondays from 6 to 10 p.m. The prizes include tickets to the Super Bowl and a Pro Bowl game.

Preschool story time: The Library seeks volunteers to read for the preschool story time Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Program lasts approximately 30 minutes.
For more information call Ext. 2934.

Skeet and trap range: Open shooting is every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. An open house is offered 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 27.
For more information call Ext. 7861.

Parent/child fishing rodeo: The youth center offers this program from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 27 at Lake Lowndes State Park. Entry is \$5.
For more information call Ext. 2504.

Photography and art contests: Deadline for entering the skills development center’s annual photography contest is Oct. 10; deadline for the artist/craftsman’s contest is Oct. 17. Competition is open to youth (ages 17 and younger) and adults.
For more information stop by the center or call Ext. 7836.

National Football League trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to New Orleans to watch the New Orleans Saints play the Chicago Bears Oct. 11 to 12.
Cost is \$99 per person and includes transportation, one night lodging (double occupancy), accommodations at the Radisson on Canal Street and a ticket to the game.
The bus will leave the community center at 8 a.m. Saturday and return Sunday evening.
For more information call Ext. 7861.

"Happy Burger" meal: Stop by the Columbus Club Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to order a Happy Burger, fries and a drink for \$3.95; nonmembers pay \$5.95.

A la carte menu and take-out orders are also available.
To order call Ext. 2489.

Quick shot bingo: The bowling center offers quick shot bingo any time the bowling center is open.
Cash prizes are awarded. Cards are \$1 each.

Youth classes: The youth center offers instruction in karate, voice, tumbling, guitar, tennis, dance and sign language.
For more information call Ext. 2504.

Birthday parties: Strike Zone Lanes offers three different birthday party packages ranging in price from \$3.50 to \$4.75 per person. Stop by to pick up a brochure describing each package.
For more information call Ext. 2426.

Special parties: The Columbus Club offers a full-service catering program to include promotion parties, weddings, retirement ceremonies or special anniversary parties.
For more information call Ext. 2489.



Football Frenzy

The club is in a Football Frenzy, stop by and enter to win a pro game trip!
Houston at Tampa Bay ■ Super Bowl ■ Pro Bowl



Maj. Patrick Penland

Reach for the stars

Conner Penland trains on the manned maneuvering unit during the youth center’s recent Parent/Child Space Camp trip to Huntsville, Ala. Conner and Paige Misener, Columbus AFB representatives, won the “right stuff” and the overall outstanding trainee awards respectively.

Columbus historian debuts ‘The Untouched City’ column

Russell D. James, M.A.
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library



Columbus is a town rich in history. Most air base personnel have already heard a spiel about the founding of the base and its history. Columbus would surely not be the place it is today without the Air Force. But much of Columbus’ history remains untold at old Kaye Field. This new column will introduce base personnel to the history of the town in which they are stationed for a short time. Because Columbus was untouched by the Civil War, the Great Depression, and the violence of the Civil Rights era, I have dubbed it “The Untouched City.” The title for this column is also the title of my historic bus tour.

Columbus was called Possum Town for many years of the 20th century. The story goes that in 1817 a man named Spirus Roach bought a trading post from another

man, Thomas Thomas. Roach supposedly looked like an opossum, so the Choctaw Indians named him Shakota-toma-ha, meaning “possum face.” This nickname spread to the town, or so the story goes. But actually, the town was known as Columbus as far back as 1819, when a writer for the Baltimore Herald reported that General Andrew Jackson had reached Columbus with the Military Road. So Possum Town is a nickname given to Columbus by the residents.

Speaking of the Military Road, that diagonal road that leads from Nashville and abruptly ends behind the public library in Columbus was built by General Jackson and his troops between 1817 and 1821 as a means of securing fast passage for troops from Nashville to New Orleans. They did not want a repeat of the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, when the British attacked New Orleans and it was only through luck that Jackson was in the vicinity to defend the Mississippi port. The Military Road originally cut across the square of ground now occupied by the First Baptist Church, went down Second Avenue North, and then across the river to join South

Highway 45, which still leads down into Louisiana. Between 1903 and 1919 there was a streetcar line that ran up the Military Road.

Another road with a lot of history is Main Street. When the plan for Columbus was laid out in 1821, many businesses and houses already existed here. The main road, leading to the Tombigbee River, was laid out broader than the other streets because of the expanse of room between businesses along that street. The original name for the street was Broad Street. The street has been the business and governmental center for almost 200 years. In the 1940s and 1950s you could park diagonally in the middle of the street. In the 1990s, the city of Columbus put together a tree-planting plan and began beautifying the street median with flowers and trees.

Another street that has a history is Fourth Street South. It was the first to be paved, though residents had to wait until 1925 for that. The reasoning behind the paving of this street first was that it led to one of the city’s main cemeteries - Friendship Cemetery. More on that cemetery next time.

BARGAIN LINE



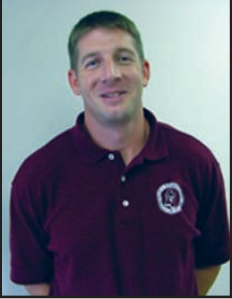
Bill Connolly

Shhhhhh

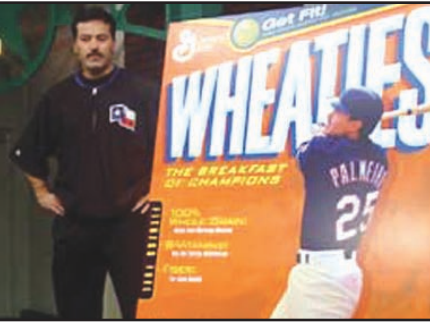
Sue Smith lines up a putt during the Three Ladies Scramble Saturday. Becky Swords, Kathy Taylor and Chris West won the event. Mayor Jeffrey Rupp, Col. Steve Schmidt, Maj. Jay Fisher and Capt. Matt Peterson won the Happy Fund Golf Tournament Sept. 12

Hispanic Heritage Month began Monday, on the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on Sept. 16, and Chile on Sept. 18. BLAZE team members here identify Hispanic athletes who inspire them:

Anthony Cook
Fitness Center



Cuban baseball player Rafael Palmeiro is very hardworking. He’s played pro for more than 15 years and does a lot of community service. He sponsors baseball camps for kids.



Rafael Palmeiro was born Sept. 24, 1964 in Havana, Cuba. He attended college at Mississippi State University, where he was a three-time all-American. He is now a left-handed designated

hitter for the Texas Rangers and earns \$9 million annually. A career .293 hitter, Palmeiro hit .273 for Texas last season with 43 home runs (which was good for third in the American League), 105 RBI, 99 runs scored and 104 walks. He ranked sixth in the AL with a .571 slugging percentage and ninth with a .391 on-base percentage. Palmeiro has hit at least 38 home runs for seven straight seasons; Babe Ruth is the only other player to accomplish the feat. Only Palmeiro, Ruth, Jimmie Foxx and Sammy Sosa have had at least 35 home runs and 100 RBI in seven straight seasons. Palmeiro’s streak is currently at eight seasons. He won three straight Gold Gloves from 1997-99. He has also been a member of the All-Star team four times, in 1988 with the Cubs, 1991 and 1999 with the Rangers and 1998 with Baltimore. Palmeiro sponsors the literacy program “Raffy’s Readers,” and supports the Lena Pope Home of Fort Worth and Make a Wish Foundation of North Texas.

SHORTS

No-tap bowling

No-tap bowling begins at 7 p.m. today at the bowling alley. Sign up by 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Bowling expertise not required. Call Ext. 2426.

Youth bowling

Saturday youth bowling begins at 10 a.m. for ages 5 to 11 and 12:30 p.m. for ages 12 and older. Cost is \$6 per week. Call Ext. 2426.

Fall soccer league

Military, civilian and adult family members are invited to play FIFA soccer behind the officers club Sunday afternoons. Visit www.geocities.com/columbusfutbol.

Fishing rodeo

A youth fishing rodeo runs from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 27 at Lake Lowndes State Park. Register by Monday at the youth center. Park fee is \$5. Call Ext. 2504.

Lunch-hour fitness

The Health and Wellness Center offers women-only circuit training Tuesdays and Thursdays, and step aerobics Wednesdays and Fridays, at noon. Call Ext. 2908.

Martial arts

Students five and older can take Tae Kwon Do between 6 and 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at the youth center. Cost is \$40 per month. Call Ext. 2404.

Thursday scrambles

Scrambles start at 4:30 p.m. every Thursday at the golf course. Register by 4 p.m. Entry is \$5 per play plus greens fees. Call Ext. 7932.

Tennis instruction

The youth center offers tennis lessons for ages five and older. Cost is \$40 monthly for two 1-hour (ages 8 up) or 45-minute (7 and under) lessons per week. Call Ext. 2504.

Fitness 101

Basic class teaches how to find target heart rate, use the fitness equipment and get results. Classes are by appointment only. Call Ext. 2773.

Circuit training

Advanced class focuses on the benefits on circuit training. Classes are by appointment only. Fitness 101 is a prerequisite. Call Ext. 2773.

Personal trainers

Certified personal trainers are available to help tailor routines for individual ability, more variety or a better workout. Call Ext. 2773.

Aerobics

The fitness center offers 15 different classes, from step to kickboxing and spinning to yoga, every week. Pick up a schedule at the front desk, or call Ext. 2772.